



Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Storm Water Policy

April 24, 2006

Number 06-17

SF Bay Regional Stormwater Permit – Development underway – A steering committee including representatives from the Regional Board, environmental groups, and storm water agencies has begun work on a *Municipal Regional Permit* (MRP). This permit will consolidate six Phase 1 municipal stormwater permits (including one USEPA permit) into a single permit for a total of 76 co-permittees. A primary goal is to incorporate the details currently in Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs) into the permit. This will include new performance standard tables establishing (1) the required activities, (2) how much of each activity is required, and (3) reporting and effectiveness evaluation requirements for each activity. Other goals include addressing 303(d) listed pollutants and TMDLs, and adding more specific and comprehensive stormwater monitoring. More information: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/mrp.htm> (scroll to bottom of page, under “MRP Steering Committee,” for the recently developed *New and Redevelopment Performance Standard Table* which discusses various options for the MRP).

Chlorine Residual in Discharges – State issues draft policy – Chlorine and chlorine compounds are the most commonly used wastewater disinfectants. They are generally not used for storm water because storm water is not usually required to comply with bacteria standards. However, disinfection may be required for storm water in the future in order to implement bacteria TMDLs or possibly even to comply with water quality standards at the point of discharge.

The state is developing a *Total Residual Chlorine and Chlorine-Produced Oxidants Policy of California* in order to: (1) establish total residual chlorine (TRC) and chlorine-produced oxidant (CPO) objectives to protect aquatic life, (2) provide consistent procedures that apply to permits that contain one or more numeric water quality-based effluent limitations to regulate discharges, and (3) provide for equitable enforcement of violations of TRC or CPO effluent limitations.

Comments are due June 5. Posted: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/iswp/chlorine.html>

Bacteria on Beaches – Ongoing debate regarding sources and health significance – As discussed in recent issues of the *NewsFlash*, some instances of elevated ocean shoreline bacteria appear to result from bacteria growth in the sand or wrack line (shoreline debris). High tides are capable of mobilizing these bacteria, which results in elevated bacteria levels in the water. These levels can then trigger beach postings or closure. A major outstanding question is whether the elevated levels of indicator bacteria are correlated to the presence of pathogenic organisms and elevated health risk. Caltrans is supporting work on methodologies to directly identify pathogenic organisms in runoff – see *NewsFlash* 06-05. Storm water and overflows from sanitary sewers are also sources and a second question is the relative significance of the various sources. These questions are important for storm water control programs since bacteria TMDLs have the potential to become very costly if treatment becomes necessary to meet loading allocations. Article: http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/news/atoz/article_1095053.php

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>